

# ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT- LANCE DUNBAR-AL7BK-337-6297  
CLUB PHONE:345-0719

DECEMBER 1986

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WHAT'S GOING ON THESE DAYS !!!

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## DEC 5 CHRISTMAS PARTY

6 PM SPENARD REC CENTER 2020 W. 48TH ST

DEC 10 .BOARD MEETING 7 PM HOPE COTTAGE MEETING RM BERING ST BETWEEN  
NORTHERN LIGHTS & BENSON

DEC 27 .PARKA SOCIAL MEETING TBA

JAN 2 . .GENERAL MEETING 7 PM SPENARD REC CENTER 2020 W. 48TH ST  
PROGRAM 'WAYNE GREEN OF 73 MAGAZINE FAME'

JAN 14 . BOARD MEETING 7 PM HOPE COTTAGE MEETING RM BERING ST BET  
NORTHERN LIGHTS & BENSON

JAN 31 . PARKA TECHNICAL MTG 10 AM PLACE TBA

FEB 6 . .MEETING TO BE 'TRIP THROUGH ALASCOM TBA

FEB 11 .BOARD MEETING 7 PM HOPE COTTAGE MEETING RM BERING ST BET  
NORTHERN LIGHTS & BENSON

FEB 28 . PARKA SOCIAL MTG 10 AM PLACE TBA

## VEC NEWS - NEW HAMS AND UPGRADES

ANCHORAGE			
ERLDON P. GRATRIX	WL7BJB	TECHNICIAN	GENERAL
DOUGLAS GREEN		NO LICENSE	NOVICE
TIM HOOVER	NL7J1	TECHNICIAN	ADVANCED
DOUGLAS MACARTHUR	NL7JE	TECHNICIAN	GENERAL
SANDRA MAY	NL7JC	GENERAL	ADVANCED
TOM REHRER	KL7XM	GENERAL	ADVANCED
FAIRBANKS			
GARY S. JONES	WL7BLE	NOVICE	TECHNICIAN

SUBMITTED BY ROGER HANSEN, KL7HFQ, VEC DIRECTOR

CINDY ENGLISH	NO LICENSE	NOVICE
LOIS ENGLISH	NO LICENSE	NOVICE
TOM TOMAZEVIC	NO LICENSE	NOVICE

EDITOR: HARVEY E. ROOKUS - NL7DK 333-4693  
3310 CHECKMATE DRIVE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508



# QSTREE QSTREE

## xmas party potluck



6:00 PM DEC. 5 SPENARD REC CENTER  
2020 E. 48TH STREET

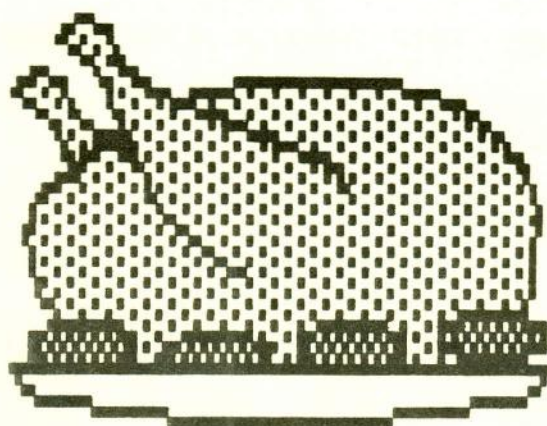
MUSIC - FOOD - ENTERTAINMENT - FOOD - FUN - SURPRISES - FOOD

DOOR PRIZES!!!

ADMISSION \$3.00 (AGE 12 AND OVER)

EXTRA DOOR PRIZE TICKETS:

\$3.00 EACH OR 2 FOR \$5.00



FOR THE POTLUCK:

NOVICE & EXTRA: PICKLES,  
OLIVES, ROLLS, BUTTER

TECHNICIANS: SALADS & JELLO

GENERAL CLASS: HOT DISHES

ADVANCED: DESSERTS

NO CALL - BRING ANY OF THE ABOVE CALL LYLE, NL7GE, 563-3211.

TURKEYS & HAMS PROVIDED BY CLUB.

COOKS ARE NEEDED. ALL HELP IS

GREATLY APPRECIATED & ACCEPTED.



8 OCTOBER 1986  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

PRESENT: AL7BK, KL7IBZ, AL7BB, KL7HM, KL7YF, NL7GE, NL7FX, KL7JIM, AL7FS, KL7DU, KL7ITI, KL7NR. ALSO PRESENT: NL7HQ, KL7IKX, NL7DL.

EXCUSED ABSENTEES: WL7ADK, WA7USX, KL7SE, KL7WM

Meeting was called to order at 7:12 P.M. ADST by El Presidente Lance Dunbar, AL7BK. No minutes were available due to WL7ADK's absence.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bingo is doing quite well--\$637 for September and \$572 from the pull-tabs at Flea Market. Membership brought in \$395. In September, income was \$5,415 and outgo \$2,125; almost \$3,000 was netted from Flea Market. (KL7DU)

ACTIVITIES: The Flea Market Banquet was attended by 38 people. The Christmas Party will be 5 Dec 86 at 7:00 P.M. at our usual meeting place. Door prizes for the October meeting were \$155 and brought in \$141. The program for the Nov meeting is the FCC, Wayne Greene in Jan, and a trip through Alascom in Feb. Due to the equipment in the Toll Center, NO CHILDREN UNDER 15 WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE TOUR THROUGH IT. (NL7GE)

VHF/UFH REPORT: 90/30 is currently QRP but hopefully not for long. Right, Dougie? Discussion on the 446.0 repeater brought a motion by AL7FS and seconded by KL7HM that the repeater be on .0 not .5. The motion passed. AL7FX moved and AL7FS seconded that \$350 be given for a digipeater to the VHF committee. The motion passed. (KL7IKX)

FLEA MARKET: \$2,992.90 net profit was gleaned from this year's extravaganza. See Lil or Ed if you want a financial breakdown. (NL7DL)

It was announced that NL7DK was absent due to kidney stones. He was heavily sedated at that time but was home. Hurry up and feel better, Harvey; we need you and miss you.

IDITAROD: A brief Iditarod updated by given by AL7FS.

KL7YF moved and NL7GE seconded that \$175.00 be allotted to buy a new beam antenna for the club since the old one never worked very well anyway. KL7HM moved and NL7GE seconded that the old one be given to the Boys' Club. Hopefully, it's at least a small improvement over what they have now. Both motions carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 P.M. ADST (that's before the time change).

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathi Moody*

Cathi Moody, KL7NR



## IDITAROD COMMUNICATIONS

AN IDITAROD COMMUNICATIONS MEETING WAS HELD THE EVENING OF NOV 15 AT THE QTH OF ARLENE-KL7HO/HARLEY-KL7IZZ. AFTER THE POTLUCK THE MEETING WAS OPENED BY JIM LARSEN-AL7FS. JIM GAVE THE OVERALL PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR, THEN EACH OF HIS BRANCH MANAGERS GAVE THEIR PLANS OR NEEDS. STEVE-KL7JIM WILL HANDLE THE STARTING, RICK-KL7YF WILL HANDLE THE TRAIL AND JIM-NL7C/CATHY-KL7NR (UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING) WILL HANDLE HEADQUARTERS. TIM-KL7WE EXPLAINED ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES THAT WILL BE PROVIDED BY ALASCOM. LES REYNOLDS, 'IDITAROD PRESIDENT', HAD MANY NICE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THE HAM COMMUNITY AND THEIR COMMUNICATIONS USED DURING THE IDITAROD AND ELSEWHERE. AFTER MANY QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS THE FORMAL MEETING BROKE UP AND MANY TALL TALES AND TECHNICAL TALES WERE TOLD TO WHOEVER WOULD LISTEN. THE PARTY BROKE UP AT ???? HOURS. IT WAS A VERY WELL PLANNED AND EXECUTED MEETING. THANK YOU JIM FOR THE PLANNING AND THANK YOU ARLENE AND HARLEY FOR THE USE OF YOUR 'NEAT QTH'. 73'S TO ALL. EDITOR-NL7DK

NOTE NOTE NOTE

IF YOU PURCHASED A CENTRAL ELECTRONICS 100V SSB XMTR OR WERE GIVEN A VIKING CHALLENGER AT THE FLEA MARKET, YOU 'MIGHT' LIKE TO HAVE THE DIAGRAMS FOR SAME.

CALL KL7BGZ-NEIL HOME 276-7106; WORK 271-5315. THANKS NEIL

ALSO NOTE-

CHANGE SHARON DEAN-KL7VL'S WORK PHONE TO 271-5766

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. - P.O. BOX 10-1987 - ANCHORAGE, AK 99510-1987

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL SIGN \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE EXPIRATION \_\_\_\_\_

PHONES: HOME \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL MEMBER? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR STATION CAPABILITIES: HF \_\_\_\_\_ VHF \_\_\_\_\_ UHF \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE HF \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE VHF \_\_\_\_\_

AMSAT/OSCAR \_\_\_\_\_ RTTY \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have other special interests in Amateur Radio? MICROPROCESSOR/DIGITAL \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSMITTER HUNTS \_\_\_\_\_ FIELD DAY \_\_\_\_\_ FLEA MARKET \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Membership period is one year from date you pay. Grace period is thirty days after your due date.

DUES \$ 20.00 Regular member

\$ 25.00 Family

\$ 10.00 Student

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



## YL POINT OF VIEW

Gobble! Gobble! Gobble! Turkey month!  
And that's what a lot of us do on Turkey Day, (other days, too, Hi Hi.)

I just finished talking with a YL who says she has Mike Fright living at her house and would like to know how to get rid of him, since he is not paying any rent! Let me tell you about Mr. Mike. He lived at my house too, and it got to the point where I just couldn't afford to feed him anymore. A solution is what I had to come up with. When you hear someone on the air, pickup the mike and don't put it down! If they sound friendly and they usually do, unless they're stuck in the mud somewhere, give your callsign and you're on! If they come back, which they probably will, you're going to think, "now what do I do?" Say Good afternoon, morning etc "so and so" how are you. Sometimes it's kind of forced conversation until you get a little more confident. But, just think, at least they can't see your face. And who knows, two or three other hams may join your group and just make your day! The hams that I've heard on the air are always glad to help a new ham out or someone who doesn't get on the air very much. Try it you might like it!

I'm organizing the hams for the Iditaski and we need people for headquarters from Feb 5 - 10. If you can do a shift, please call me at work 271-5766 or home 745-4352 (work may change in the future.) Hqtrs will be at Chris Moore's house in Wasilla on Knik Road.

The next meeting for PARKA will be at Nancy Law's home(NL7HK) at 614 Fisher at 10:00 AM. Nov 29. Call Mary Law's NL7DM 344-5146 or Nancy Law's 563-5082. It will be a technical meeting continuing the discussion on propagation and how to predict propagation. We are having elections so if you aren't there you may be a new officer. Bring a friend and introduce them to the wonderful world of Ham radio. Don't forget the PARKA Net on .90/.30 every Thursday evening at 9:00 PM

73's

Sharon Dean KL7VL

### WEDDING BELLS

For Jean Belfield's(KL7VT) daughter Beth (KL7VD) to Paul Hickey who works at BLM. Beth works at Providence Hospital as a respiratory therapy technician.

## NOVICE CLASSES

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CALL LIL-NL7DL 277-6741 FOR INFORMATION PERTAINING TO OBTAINING A NOVICE CLASS LICENSE

## HANDIHAMS

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HANDIHAM INFORMATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS. CALL SHARON-KL7VL AT 271-5766 WORK OR 745-4352 HOME OR LIL-NL7DL 277-6741.



MISC

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WANTED

FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

DRAKE TR4C SSB/CW RECEIVER &  
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VERY GOOD CONDITION \$375  
2 MTR WILSON HANDHELD XTRL  
CONTROLLED XTRLS FOR LOCAL  
AREA. NO TOUCH PAD. \$75 CALL  
MARK KL7DS 274-7010 6-9 PM

FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

ROHN 45G TOWER  
5-10 FT SECTIONS, 1 BASE, 1 TOP  
WITH THRUST BEARING. \$100 EA  
(SOME SECTIONS NEVER USED!)  
CDE HAM II ROTOR W/45G MOUNT,  
\$125, HYGAIN TH 3DX (1 KW) BEAM,  
\$125. ALL ABOVE FOR \$850 (SAVE \$100)  
ALSO DRAKE LINE: R-4B, T-4XB,  
AC-4, MS-4. MAKE OFFER!  
GLENN JOHNSON WA0PUJ 243-5205



THANK TO RAY-WGQIL  
I TOLD YOU NOT TO ASSEMBLE  
THOSE GEARS IN THERE IN  
REVERSE ORDER!

FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

\$20.00  18 INCH DIAMETER

MADE WITH ALASKAN SPRUCE AND HEMLOCK  
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PINE CONES (NATURAL OR RED AND WHITE),  
AND RED HOLLY BERRIES. WEEKEND DELIVERY  
TO ANCHORAGE AFTER THANKSGIVING.  
CALL 782-3302 OR SEE ME AT TYHE AARC  
CHRISTMAS PARTY. ED COLE AL7EB



An organization of amateurs licensed  
over 25 years who are interested in  
preserving the history and traditions  
of Amateur Radio and in pioneering  
the developments of the future.

For information, write:  
**Quarter Century Wireless  
Association**

1711 Logan St., Anchorage, Ak. 99504





# PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
1919 M STREET N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

0058

News media information 202/632-5050. Recorded listing of releases and texts 202/632-0002.

October 6, 1986

## INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO ARRANGEMENTS

### THIRD-PARTY ARRANGEMENTS

The United States has arrangements to permit FCC-licensed amateur stations to exchange messages for third-parties with amateur stations in these countries:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Christopher and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, **Sierra Leone**, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (special event stations with call sign prefix GB followed by a number other than 3), Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The United States also has an agreement with the United Nations permitting third-party traffic with amateur stations 4U1ITU in Geneva, Switzerland and 4U1VIC in Vienna, Austria.

International amateur radiocommunications are limited by the International Radio Regulations. They must be in plain language and consist only of messages of a technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character for which, by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified (see Section 97.111). Business messages are prohibited (see Section 97.114).

At the end of an exchange of international third-party traffic, the FCC-licensed amateur station must transmit the call sign of the foreign amateur station in addition to its own call sign (see Section 97.84).

### RECIPROCAL OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

The United States has arrangements to grant reciprocal operating permits to visiting alien amateur operators. A United States citizen is not eligible for an FCC-issued reciprocal permit. Aliens are also eligible to qualify for an FCC amateur radio license.

-more-



An alien amateur operator licensed by one of the following countries, who is also a citizen of that same country, may apply for a permit to operate his/her amateur station in areas where telecommunications are regulated by the FCC.

Argentina, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada\*, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France (Including French Guiana, French Polynesia (Gambier, Marquesas, Society, and Tubuai Islands and Tuamotu Archipelago), Guadeloupe, Ile Amsterdam, Ile Saint-Paul, Iles Crozet, Iles Kerguelen, Martinique, New Caledonia, Reunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, and Wallis and Futuna Islands), Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Republic of Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Liberia, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, St. Lucia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Republic of South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, United Kingdom (Including Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Montserrat, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands), Uruguay, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia.

\*The arrangement with Canada permits operation by Canadian amateur operators in the United States without obtaining a reciprocal operating permit and vice-versa.

An alien amateur operator may apply for a permit by completing FCC Form 610-A, available from any FCC office or, in some cases, from United States missions abroad. The permit is valid for one year or until the expiration date on the alien's license, whichever comes first. The application and a photocopy of the alien's amateur license should be sent to:

Federal Communications Commission  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325  
United States of America

Amateur operation in areas where telecommunications are regulated by the FCC must comply with Part 97 of the Commission's Rules and the International Radio Regulations. Operator privileges in the United States are those authorized by the operator's own government, but not to exceed those of the FCC Amateur Extra class (see Section 97.7).

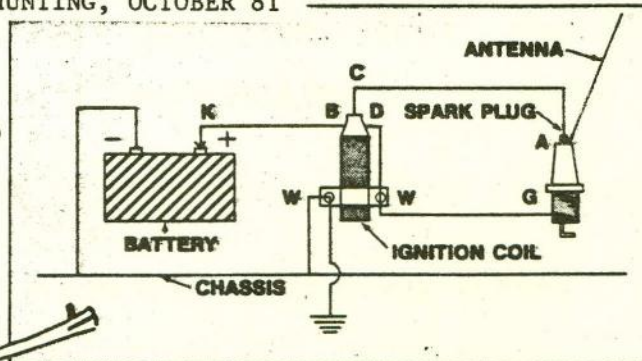
United States amateur operators wishing to apply for a reciprocal permit in a foreign country should contact the telecommunications regulatory authority for the country to be visited. The regulations of that country apply.





**HERE'S HOW:**

Illustration by Tom Donchez



*Becoming lost isn't much fun...  
but you can jerry-rig an emergency  
transmitter from your hunting vehicle.*

## Helping Yourself Out Of Trouble

**By Steven N. Witkowski**

**W**hen you're lost, some form of radio transmitter is useful. If you don't have one handy, here is one that can be jerry-rigged from a car or plane's electrical system.

Necessary components are: the storage battery, ignition wire, ignition coil, and a clean spark plug. Wire from the lighting circuits is used for the antenna by splicing together 20 feet or more of wire (the longer the better).

We now have the parts of an outlawed, elementary spark transmitter—outlawed because of its nature to transmit a very broad signal. Such a signal may be heard on any radio, and it's so simple that a youngster could rig it up and send an emergency SOS.

First, the storage battery. If it is upside down or on its side, right it to keep the acid from dripping out.

Next, get a length of ignition wire which will reach from the battery to the coil (this wire should be as thick as the lead of a pencil). If the vehicle is on its wheels, leave the battery in its holder. The coil may also be left in its bracket.

Be sure the ignition or starting switch and lights are in the OFF position.

Strip the ends of the battery-to-coil wire and connect one end to "B" (see diagram). Do not connect "K" yet.

Connect another wire from "D" to "W." This completes the battery power circuit. Note: If the coil is not grounded, attach a wire to "W" (left-side of coil on diagram) and ground; in this case, to the chassis.

Now, remove one spark plug. Using another piece of wire, strip the ends of insulation. Attach this wire to the metal case of the coil "W" via its mounting

screw. Wrap the other end securely around the spark-plug threads ("G") and twist securely.

Now, clean the HOT or ungrounded battery terminal with a knife or stone to remove any oxidation. A shiny edge is usually sufficient. At this point, "K" becomes the sending key and, for now, should be taped to the clean terminal.

Remove a short spark-plug lead wire from the harness. Connect this lead wire to "A" and "C." If the plug wire is too short, an insulated wire may have to be cut to reach. Be careful with this wire, because it can give you an uncomfortable, high-voltage shock.

For the makeshift emergency antenna, clean the ends of several 10-foot lengths of wire from the wire harnesses. Twist the ends together so they will withstand a good amount of pulling and/or wind strain. Attach one end of the antenna wire to point "A" on the spark plug. Avoid allowing the antenna to come in direct contact with the car body, wet tree limbs, etc. Even though the antenna wire is insulated, it could possibly "ground" itself out, and this would stop the spark at the spark gap. If this were to happen, your emergency transmitter would not broadcast your signal.

To ready the antenna for operation, cast it over an elevated bush, tree, cliff edge, etc.

The last thing to check before you begin transmitting is a ground connection from the car to "terra firma." While this may not be necessary if the ground is dry, it is a good idea to run a wire from the car to a metal stake pushed into the dirt.

With all the preparations now complete, you are ready to test your emergen-

cy transmitter. Using the free end of wire "K" (this will be the sending key), lightly touch the uninsulated end to the HOT terminal of the battery, and then remove. If all connections are correct, you will be able to see and hear the spark jump across the spark-plug gap each time "K" is removed from the HOT terminal. If everything checks out satisfactorily, remove the "W" to "G" connection wire and screw the spark plug back into the engine.

The signal you transmit should be a rhythmical one that is repeated over and over. The ongoing rhythm separates it from simple random noise, and tells whoever might be listening that the sound is manmade, and not just a bunch of hit-and-miss clicks. Using wire "K" as the sending key, simply tap the HOT battery terminal to send the well-known SOS. The Morse code is a system of dots (.) and dashes (-). For someone who does not have a working knowledge of all the letters in Morse code, an SOS is almost internationally understood because it is so simple. The Morse code signal for the letter "S" is simply three quick dots (...), while the letter "O" is three longer dashes (---). To send the international distress call of SOS, you only have to tap out dot-dot-dot, dash-dash-dash, dot-dot-dot (... --- ...).

Any person who reads Morse code, and even most who do not, will be able to recognize your call for help. Because you are operating such a wide-band transmitter, if luck is with you, this simple radio device will reach any listeners in an area of about 7500 miles. If the listener will call the local authorities, your exact location can be pinpointed by directional receiving stations.



# FOR THE PACKETEERS

THANKS TO JIM MCFADDEN WA3ILW

## Eliminating POOP from Packet

by Peter Eaton, WB9FLW, and Lyle Johnson, WA7GXD

### Overview

A lot of POOP has been discovered on packet frequencies across the nation and around the world! Indeed, in addition to its health and welfare implications, POOP is both unnecessary and oftentimes offensive. While other four-letter acronyms have been used to describe the characteristics of POOP, it is hoped that POOP is sufficiently recognizable by packeteers to eliminate the need to express the others! What, exactly, is POOP? How does one eliminate it? How can one help others to cause it to not be propagated? The answers to these questions form the basis of this paper.

### POOP - What is it?

POOP is simply an acronym for Poor Operating On Packet. While it may evoke other thoughts in one's mind, the relationship between those other thoughts and poor operating practices is probably pretty clear and will not be further elaborated upon.

### POOP - How does one eliminate it?

In order to eliminate POOP, one must simply not generate it. If it is generated, it will be passed onto packet channels, needlessly clogging them.

While there are many varieties of POOP, and it would be impossible to describe them all in this paper, several of the more obnoxious and prevalent forms of it are described.

### Frog POOP

If you have ever been around a pond, you have undoubtedly heard the loud and constant noise put on by frogs. It seems amazing that so small a creature can make such a disturbance!

If you have ever monitored a busy packet channel, you have probably seen plenty of beacon messages. Here again, a large disturbance may be caused.

Beacon features were included in TNC software in the early days of packet when stations were few and far between. Like the frog on the pond, the noises were made to attract attention of like species -- in this case, other packet stations. Unlike the frog, who settles down after he gets what he was looking for, many packeteers continue to send beacons, often on crowded channels.

Some packeteers contrive clever beacons, to sound bells, clear screens, or print multi-line declarations on the screens of all who can decode



the beacon.

The proper rules governing beacons are simple:

- 1) Determine why you need to beacon.

Beacons declaring that you are unavailable, or on vacation, are perfectly useless and mark you as a real POOPer. If the information you are attempting to convey is important, perhaps leaving it as a message addressed to all on the nearest packet bulletin board station (PBBS) is a better alternative.

On the other hand, if you are living in tornado alley and see a funnel, an urgent beacon may be appropriate.

(In-search-of POOP)

If the purpose of your beacon is to let folks know you are around and want to connect, it may be better to just turn on the radio and let your TNC decode a few packets from other stations. This way you can see who is on and then simply send a connect request rather than a beacon. Many new TNC software releases include an MHEARD function, allowing you to see the contents of a buffer containing the last several packet stations heard by your station.

If you are convinced that you must transmit without listening for a few minutes (or if the channel really does appear dead), dropping into UNPROTO mode (CONVERSE mode from COMMAND mode without first connecting) and typing a short CQ message (which may be as simple as a carriage return if UNPROTO is set to CQ) is preferable to beaconing one.

- 2) Compose the briefest possible beacon text.

Cute beacons that fill a screen, sound bells, or clear screens will only mark your station as obnoxious. It is a classic way to lose friends and increase your count of enemies!

- 3) Use the BEACON AFTER mode rather than BEACON EVERY.

If the channel is busy, one-way broadcasts (which is, after all, what a beacon really is) are not welcome. It's bad enough to try and maintain a connection through a digipeater or two without having a channel clogged by transmissions from unattended stations that come on the air every few minutes. Beacon AFTER with a value of thirty minutes will assure that you do not add to busy channel bedlam.

- 4) Don't send beacons more often than every thirty minutes, preferably less frequently. (TNC 1 and TNC 2 users, B A 180 is the recommended setting.)

- 5) Digipeat beacons with care!

MORE POOP SCOOP NEXT MONTH



**ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**

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